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C O N F I D E N T I A L ROME 002296

SIPDIS

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TAGS: [PREL](#) [IT](#) [UNSC](#)

SUBJECT: G-4 UNSC RESOLUTION: ITALY AGREES ON IMPORTANCE OF
DELAY, WILL CIRCULATE UFC ALTERNATIVE RESOLUTION TODAY

REF: STATE 126870

Classified By: DCM Emil Skodon, for reasons 1.4 (B)(D).

1. (C) DCM delivered reftel points to Giacomo Sanfelice de Monteforte, MFA Deputy Director General for Multilateral Affairs (DG Giulio Terzi is still at the G-8 Summit in Gleneagles) and Alessandro Busacca, Director of the MFA UN Office, emphasizing Secretary Rice's view that we consider it important to first address other UN reforms before tackling the Security Council issue. In our view, the G-4 resolution is unhelpfully divisive and would lead ultimately to a UN Charter amendment that may not be approved by the U.S. Senate. Our goal is to delay a vote on the resolution and first address the criteria for new UNSC membership. This position does not reflect our support or opposition for membership of any particular state.

2. (C) Sanfelice de Monteforte responded that Italy very much shares this position. He reiterated Italy's view that the G-4 resolution is not based on a sufficient consensus and will divide member states and regions. However, Italy is working on the assumption there will be a vote. UFC countries are reviewing a series of tactical actions to prevent or roll back support, especially among the African states.

3. (C) Responding to G-4 claims that there is no alternative, Italy and the Uniting for Consensus (UFC) countries are about to circulate a draft resolution in New York; the text is embargoed until 1100 New York time July 8. Although the text was still being discussed, Sanfelice de Monteforte expected it would be the same as the UFC text distributed on May 27 (a proposal for 25 UNSC members, including 5 permanent members and 20 non-permanent members elected for two-year terms by the General Assembly based on their support for UN goals and operations and with an equitable geographic distribution). Italy had considered a three-year mandate for these non-permanent members but has now agreed to two-year terms.

4. (C) Italy was pleased that the G-4 resolution had attracted only 27 sponsors to date, far less than the G-4 had hoped. Sanfelice de Monteforte noted that the key was to convince the African states, who often voted in a 53 member bloc, not to meld the African Union draft approved at the Libya summit with the G-4 draft. The key difference was that the AU draft continued to insist on veto power for the new non-permanent members.

5. (C) Sanfelice de Monteforte noted that Italy was surprised and disappointed that Afghanistan had sponsored the resolution and asked that the U.S. press hard to convince Kabul to withdraw its support. This would send an important signal to states who have not yet made commitments. Also, Italy would appreciate the U.S. approaching its allies in the Caribbean, Africa (especially 'gray' states of Kenya, Eritrea and Ethiopia) and the Middle East (Maghreb states concerned about the balance of power in Africa) to oppose the G-4 resolution.

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